

## **STANDARD USI.4a**

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**The student will apply social science skills to understand European exploration in North America and West Africa by**

**a) describing the motivations for, obstacles to, and accomplishments of the Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English explorations;**

### **Essential Understandings**

Major European countries were in competition to extend their power into North America and claim the land as their own.

### **Essential Knowledge**

#### **Motivations for the explorations**

- Economic—find gold and natural resources; trade
- Religious—spread Christianity
- Competitions for empire and belief in superiority of own culture

#### **Obstacles to the explorations**

- Poor maps and navigational tools
- Disease and starvation
- Fear of the unknown
- Lack of adequate supplies

#### **Accomplishments of the explorations**

- Exchanged goods and ideas
- Improved navigational tools and ships
- Claimed territories

#### **Regions of North America explored by Spain, France, and England**

- Spain: Francisco Coronado claimed the Southwest of the present-day United States for Spain.
- France: Samuel de Champlain established the French settlement of Québec. Robert La Salle claimed the Mississippi River Valley for France.
- England: John Cabot explored eastern Canada.

#### **Regions explored by Portugal**

- The Portuguese made voyages of discovery along the coast of West Africa.